

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USFJ FUCHU, JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9257

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: MIKI RESIGNS AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY: ON JULY 12 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAKEO MIKI SUDDENLY RESIGNED FROM GOJ. AT LEAST FOR PRESENT FINANCE MINISTER FUKUDA WILL NOT FOLLOW SUIT END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAKEO MIKI CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AT HIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 12 AND TENDERED RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY. AFTER REPORTEDLY TRYING TO DISSUADE MIKI, TANAKA ACCEPTED RESIGNATION. LDP SEC GEN HASHIMOTO WENT TO MIKI HOME IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER IN VAIN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE HIM TO REMAIN IN CABINET, BUT MIKI FORMALLY SUBMITTED RESIGNATION TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO BEFORE NOON.

2. FOLLOWING 50-MINUTE MEETING WITH TANAKA, MIKI TOLD PRESS THAT HE WAS RESIGNING TO WORK AS INDIVIDUAL LDP MEMBER TO MEET PUBLIC DEMAND FOR PARTY MODERIZATION. HE DECLARED LDP FACED PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL SITUATION AS RESULT OF UPPER HOUSE
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ELECTION. WITHOUT SPECIFICS, MIKI SAID HE WOULD MAKE EFFORTS

DIRECTED AT REFORMING DIET ELECTION SYSTEM, CHANGING LDP
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SYSTEM, AND CORRECTING METHOD OF COLLECTING
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTY.

3. FOLLOWING REGULAR FIRDAY MORNING CABINET MEETING WHICH
MIKI DID NOT ATTEND, PRIME MINISTER MET WITH FUKUDA, OHIRA, AND
NAKASONE AND ADKED FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT. HE ALSO
REPORTEDLY MET WITH LEADING FUKUDA FACTION MEMBER SHIGERU HORI
AND ASKED HIM TO EXERT HIS INFLUENCE TO PREVENT FUKUDA
FROM FOLLOWING MIKI'S LEAD AND RESINGING FROM CABINET.

4. WHETHER OR NOT CABINET WILL BE REORGANIZED NOW APPERS TO
HINGE ON DECISION BY FUKUDA AS TO WHETHER HE WILL STAY ON OR
RESIGN. FUKUDA HAS TENTATIVELY INDICATED HE WILL NOT
RESIGN, AND TV REPORTS SAY LDP OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT CABINET
RESHUFFLE WILL NOT BE NECESARY. HOWEVER, SOME PRESS
PEOPLE SPECULATE IT IS QTE JUST MATTER OF TIME UNQTE BEFORE
FUKUDA TOO LEAVES GOVNERMENT. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE IN KEEPING
WITH REPORTS FROM SEVERAL SOURCES IN RECENT DAYS THAT MIKI
AND FUKUDA WERE COORDINATING DEFINITIVE ANTI-TANAKA MOVE.
BOTH HAD CRITICIZED TANAKA'S HANDLING OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, ESPECIALLY LAVISH USE OF MONEY AND RELIANCE ON LARGE
CORPORATIONS. MIKI ALSO CLASHED DIRECTLY WITH TANAKA IN
TOKUSHIMA CONSTITUENCY DURING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, HELPING
HIS OWN MAN KUJIME DEFEAT LDP-ENDORSED GOTODA.

5. MID-AFTERNOON JULY 12, GOJ ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBER MATSUHEI MORI (EHIME,
3RD DISTRICT) AS MIKI'S SUCCESSOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL
AGENCY. (MORI IS MEMBER OF MIKI FACTION). MAINLY HONORARY DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER POST WILL REMAIN VACANT. NHK ALSO REPORTED THAT
STA DIRECTOR GENERAL MORIYAMA AND THREE PARLIAMENTARY
VICE MINISTERS (ALL MIKI FACTION MEN) HAD INDICATED
DECISION TO STAY WITH GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, MIKI TOLD
FACTION MEMBERS THAT NOW IS NOT TIME TO CONFRONT
PARTY LEADERSHIP WITH CHARGES CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ELECTION SETBACK. INSTEAD HE URGED THEM TO WORK
FOR CHANGE IN FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER OF PARTY. THESE
DEVELOPMENTS, TAKEN TOGETHER, SEEM TO INHIBIT FUKUDA'S
FREEDOM OF MANEUVER AND MAY EVEN INDICATED MIKI AND FUKUDA
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NOT WORKING IN COMPLETE HARMONY.

6. EVEN HAD MORIYAMA FOLLOWED MIKI OUT OF CABINET,
THESE TWO RESIGNATIONS ALONE WOULD NOT HAVE NECESSITATED
MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE. HOWEVER, FUKUDA'S DEPARTURE,
ESPECIALLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY RESIGNATION -- WHICH MIGHT OR
MIGHT NOT FOLLOW -- OF FUKUDA FACTION MEMBERS SHIGERU
HORI (DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT AGENCY),

KINGO MACHIMURA (HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER) AND TADAO KURAISHI (AGRICULTURAL MINISTER) WOULD CERTAINLY LEAD TO MAJOR SHAKE UP. FURTHER COMPLICATING MATTERS ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS THAT JUSTICE MINISTER UMEKICHI NAKAMURA (NAKASONE FACTION) IS THINKING OF RESIGNING BECAUSE OF ILLNESS.

7. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT CABINET RESHUFFLE TAKES PLACE, MIKI RESIGNATION UNDER CUTS FACTIONAL COOPERATION AMONG TANAKA, MIKI, OHIRA AND NAKASONE WHICH PERMITTED TANAKA TO WIN PARTY PRESIDENCY IN 1972 AND RAISES PROSPECT OF DIRECT AND OPEN CHALLENGE TO TANAKA'S HOLD ON REINS OF PARTY LEADERSHIP.

8. AT CONCLUSION OF LENGTHY MEETING OF FUKUDA FACTION HELD FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FUKUDA INDICATED THAT HE PRESENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN. SO, FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST, CABINET CHANGE APPEARS LIMITED TO MIKIS' RESIGNATION. SHOES MITH

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